

RETAIL PRICES - SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1947.

ALL ITEMS - "C" SERIES.

Index numbers (with the weighted average of the six Capital Cities in 1923-1927 as base of 1000) of retail prices of all items ("C" Series) for the September quarter, 1947, with figures for June quarter, 1947, for comparison (in brackets), were:- Brisbane 1136 (1125), Toowoomba 1153 (1141), Rockhampton 1142 (1129), Townsville 1181 (1169), Bundaberg 1111 (1108), and Warwick 1139 (1125). Increases over the June quarter occurred in all the towns. During the twelve months ended September, 1947, the increase in Brisbane - increases in other towns were very similar - was 4.0 per cent., compared with 2.2 per cent. during the preceding twelve months, following practically no change during the two years from September, 1943 to September, 1945, after a "Price Ceiling" had been imposed in April, 1943. In the first four years of the war to September, 1943, annual increases in the index were 4.6, 6.2, 8.5, and 2.9 per cent. respectively.

The figures show the following percentage increases when compared with those for the periods shown.

Retail Price Index, "C" Series, Percentage Increase in September Quarter, 1947.

City.			From Year Ended June, 1939.	From September Quarter, 1946.	From June Quarter, 1947.
			%	%	%
Brisbane	..	..	31.6	4.0	1.0
Toowoomba	..	..	35.5	4.2	1.1
Rockhampton	..	..	32.6	4.5	1.2
Townsville	..	..	29.5	4.1	1.0
Bundaberg	..	..	32.1	3.5	0.3
Warwick	..	..	38.6	5.0	1.2

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear, and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc., have shown the following percentage changes during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

Retail Prices, Percentage Increase in September Quarter, 1947.

City.	Food and Groceries.		Clothing and Footwear.		Miscellaneous Items.	
	From Year Ended June, 1939.	From June Quarter, 1947.	From Year Ended June, 1939.	From June Quarter, 1947.	From Year Ended June, 1939.	From June Quarter, 1947.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Brisbane ..	23.0	1.6	88.7	1.4	21.3	0.1
Toowoomba..	33.9	0.9	86.7	2.4	21.0	0.1
Rockhampton	22.5	0.9	86.6	2.7	22.8	-0.3
Townsville	20.0	0.9	87.4	2.0	20.2	0.3
Bundaberg..	22.6	0.3	83.0	0.7	18.6	-0.2
Warwick ..	28.6	1.0	90.5	3.1	24.5	1.0

FOOD AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

Index numbers for food and rent only ("B" Series) for September quarter, 1947 (with base 1000 in 1923-1927 for the six State Capitals) were:- Brisbane, 977; Toowoomba, 1000; Rockhampton, 971; Townsville, 1034; Bundaberg, 938; and Warwick, 954.

From June quarter, 1947, to September quarter, 1947, the "B" Series index showed increases in Brisbane, 1.1%; Toowoomba, 0.6%; Rockhampton, 0.7%; Townsville, 0.6%; Bundaberg, 0.1%; and Warwick, 0.7%.

Increases were noted mainly in potatoes, bread (in Brisbane), soap, dried and canned fruits, flour, sago, and onions. These increases were counteracted slightly by a seasonal decrease in the price of eggs.

The rent index increased in Rockhampton, 0.1%; and remained stationary in all other towns.

Compared with September quarter, 1946, the "B" Series index increased in Brisbane, 5.6%; Toowoomba, 5.3%; Rockhampton, 6.4%; Townsville, 5.1%; Bundaberg, 5.2%; and Warwick, 6.1%.

The rent index showed no movement in Townsville and Bundaberg, but increases were recorded in Brisbane, 0.1%; Toowoomba, 0.3%; Rockhampton, 1.2%; and Warwick, 0.7%.

CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR, AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Clothing and footwear prices rose steadily during the early years of the recent war, until they were about 75 per cent. above their pre-war level by June, 1943. The "Price Ceiling" policy was introduced early in 1943, and the clothing and footwear index declined slightly from June quarter 1943 to September quarter 1945, when it again commenced to rise. In the next twelve months, clothing and footwear prices in Brisbane rose by 6.5 per cent., and a further 3.3 per cent. in the twelve months ended September, 1947, in spite of a decline in the March quarter due to a reduction of Sales Tax on most clothing items. Similar rises occurred in the other Cities.

Miscellaneous items were nearly 20 per cent. above their pre-war price level by June, 1943, and have remained fairly steady since that date, with the exception of an increase of about 1 per cent. in the March quarter, 1947, due to an increase in the price of tobacco and cigarettes.

COMPARISON OF COSTS IN QUEENSLAND CITIES.

The following table shows the amounts, for the various Queensland cities, required in September quarter, 1947, to purchase the quantity of goods or housing which would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

Amounts Required in Various Cities to Purchase Equivalent of £1 in Brisbane.

City.	All Items.			Food and Groceries.			Rent (4 and 5 Rooms).			Clothing and Footwear.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Brisbane ..	1.	0.	0.	1.	0.	0.	1.	0.	0.	1.	0.	0.
Toowoomba ..	1.	0.	4.	1.	0.	8.	1.	0.	0.		19.	10.
Rockhampton	1.	0.	1.	1.	0.	10.		18.	1.	1.	0.	2.
Townsville ..	1.	0.	10.	1.	1.	9.	1.	0.	1.	1.	0.	2.
Bundaberg ..		19.	7.	1.	1.	0.		15.	9.		19.	3.
Warwick ..	1.	0.	1.	1.	0.	8.		17.	4.	1.	0.	1.

BASIC WAGE RATES IN STATE CAPITAL CITIES.

The table on page 3 shows the Retail Price Index Number ("C" Series) for each of the six Capital Cities for the September quarter of 1947 and the prevailing basic wage rates for males prescribed by Commonwealth and State Industrial tribunals respectively. The fourth column shows the amounts which would be required in Brisbane to provide a standard of living equivalent to that provided by each State Basic Wage in its own Capital City. The differences between these amounts and the State Basic Wage for Brisbane, which are given in the last column, show the margin of advantage in real purchasing power provided by the Queensland Basic Wage over each of the other State Basic Wages.

Retail Prices and Basic Wage Rates - September Quarter, 1947.

Capital City.	Retail Price Index ("C" Series) September, 1947.	Commonwealth Court Basic Wage for Males.	State Court Basic Wage for Males.	Equivalent at Brisbane Prices of each State Basic Wage.	Margin of Purchasing Power in Favour of Brisbane State Basic Wage.
	Index.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.
Brisbane ..	1136	5. 5. 0.	5. 9. 0.	5. 9. 0.	- -
Sydney ..	1218	5. 12. 0.	5. 12. 0.	5. 4. 6.	4. 6.
Melbourne ..	1189	5. 9. 0.	5. 9. 0.	5. 4. 2.	4. 10.
Adelaide ..	1169	5. 6. 0.	5. 6. 0.	5. 3. 0.	6. 0.
Perth ..	1167	5. 6. 0.	5. 10. 9.	5. 7. 10.	1. 2.
Hobart ..	1137	5. 7. 0.	5. 7. 0.	5. 2. 5.	6. 7.

The rise in the "C" Series Index Number during the quarter ended September, 1947, caused a "cost of living" addition of 2s.0d. to the Commonwealth Basic Wages in Sydney, Adelaide, Perth, and Hobart, and an addition of 1s.0d. in Brisbane and Melbourne. The State Basic Wage in Brisbane, and in all other parts of Queensland, was increased by 1s.0d. The State Basic Wage in Adelaide was increased by 2s.0d., and in Perth by 1s.6d. In Sydney, where the State Basic Wage follows the Commonwealth rate, the increase was 2s.0d., while in Melbourne and Hobart, where no State Basic Wage is declared, State awards largely follow the Commonwealth Basic Wage rates, which increased by 1s.0d. and 2s.0d. respectively in those Cities.

S. E. SOLOMON.

ACTING GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN.

BRISBANE.

5th November, 1947.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX.

Table No. 1.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.
(Base = 1000 in 1923-1927 in Six State Capitals.)

CITY.	Year Ended Decr., 1928.	Year Ended June, 1939.	Year Ended Sept., 1947.	QUARTERS ENDED -				
				September, 1946.	December, 1946.	March, 1947.	June, 1947.	Sept., 1947.
Brisbane ..	917	863	1124	1092	1110	1123	1125	1136
Toowoomba ..	906	851	1140	1106	1125	1139	1141	1153
Rockhampton	903	861	1127	1093	1111	1126	1129	1142
Townsville..	1023	912	1170	1135	1156	1172	1169	1181
Bundaberg ..	(b)	841	1104	1073	1090	1107	1108	1111
Weighted Average								
Five Towns (a)	915	864	1123	1095	1114	1127	1129	1140
Warwick ..	914	822	1124	1085	1108	1123	1125	1139

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 2. FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) INDEX - "B" SERIES.
(Base = 1000 in 1923-1927 in Six State Capitals.)

CITY.	Year Ended Decr., 1928.	Year Ended June, 1939.	Year Ended Sept., 1947.	QUARTERS ENDED -				
				September, 1946.	December, 1946.	March, 1947.	June, 1947.	Sept., 1947.
Brisbane ..	901	852	963	925	942	968	966	977
Toowoomba ..	833	821	983	950	965	992	994	1000
Rockhampton	858	837	956	913	930	959	964	971
Townsville ..	1047	916	1023	984	1001	1029	1028	1034
Bundaberg ..	(b)	799	930	892	907	937	937	938
Weighted Average								
Five Towns (a)	892	851	967	929	945	972	971	981
Warwick ..	841	768	942	899	917	948	947	954

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 3. AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES, BRISBANE.

Commodity and Unit of Quantity.	Year Ended June, 1939.	MONTH OF -		Commodity and Unit of Quantity.	Year Ended June, 1939.	MONTH OF -	
		June, 1947.	Sept., 1947.			June, 1947.	Sept., 1947.
	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.
Bread .. 2 lb.	5.33	5.50	6.00	Eggs .. 1 doz.	19.69	31.00	24.00
Flour .. 2 lb.	3.73	4.18	4.23	Milk .. 1 qt.	6.00	7.10	7.10
Tea .. 1 lb.	26.99	33.00	33.00	Beef -			
Sugar .. 1 lb.	3.98	3.93	3.93	Sirloin Roast 1 lb.	8.73	13.00	13.00
Sago .. 1 lb.	3.00	17.39	17.44	Steak Rump 1 lb.	11.34	17.50	17.50
Jam (Plum) 1½ lb.	8.02	13.32	13.32	Steak Chuck 1 lb.	5.83	8.00	8.00
Oats - Flaked 1 lb.	3.57	4.60	4.60	Rolled Brisket 1 lb.	5.48	8.00	3.00
Raisins .. 1 lb.	10.57	13.19	14.75	Mutton -			
Potatoes 7 lb.	14.88	8.42	10.41	Leg .. 1 lb.	7.75	11.50	11.50
Onions .. 1 lb.	2.93	3.27	3.91	Loin Chops 1 lb.	7.78	11.50	11.50
Soap .. 1 lb.	6.20	7.70	7.80	Pork -			
Butter .. 1 lb.	19.00	19.91	19.91	Leg .. 1 lb.	11.40	15.00	15.00
Cheese .. 1 lb.	13.28	15.23	15.23	Chops .. 1 lb.	11.48	18.00	18.00